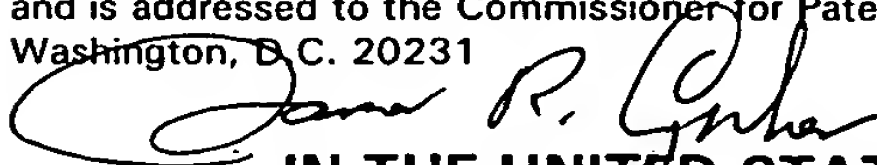


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Inventors:

Mark G. Crawford, Steven E. Pryor and
Alfred D. Commins

Title:

Screw Fastener in Multiple Floor Truss and
Wood-to-Wood Shear Connection

Serial No.:

09/728,187

Group Art Unit:

3635

Examiner:

Katcheves, Basil S.

Supervisory Patent

Examiner:

Carl D. Friedman

Attorney Docket No.

SST 1083

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 17, 2002, please consider the following Remarks and attached Terminal Disclaimer.

REMARKS

Double Patenting

Examiner Basil S. Katcheves rejected claims 1 - 3 and 25 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,109,850 to Commins., assigned to Applicant of this invention, Simpson Strong-Tie Company, Inc.

Applicant has filed herewith a terminal disclaimer to obviate this double patenting rejection.

Claims 1 - 3 and 25 should therefor be in form for allowance.

Examiner Basil S. Katcheves also rejected claims 4 - 24 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,109,850 to Commins , assigned to Applicant of this invention Simpson Strong-Tie Company, Inc. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,580,780 to Gautraud et al.

Applicant has filed herewith a terminal disclaimer to obviate this double patenting rejection. As a result of the filing of the terminal disclaimer to obviate this double patenting rejection, it is Applicant's assertion that the rejection based on Commins 6,109,850 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,580,780 to Gautraud effectively removes the Commins patent and the rejection in view of Gautraud can no longer be asserted.

Gautraud 4,580,780 for Bowling Alley construction Distinguished

As stated above Examiner Basil S. Katcheves rejected claims 4 - 24 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting. as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,109,850 to Commins in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,580,780 to Gautraud et al

It is Applicants' assertion that Gautraud standing alone does not teach or even suggest Applicants' invention.

Claims 4 - 24 call for a multiply wood structure shear connection in which a plurality of specially formed screws join a plurality of wood structural members ; i.e. trusses, which are placed in edge-to-edge configuration and are joined by the specially formed screws by driving the screws through an edge face of each of certain wood structural members , see Figs. 8 - 11.

Although Gautraud et al. show a plurality of trusses, they are spaced apart on 36" centers and none of them are in edge to edge contact nor are any components of one truss in edge to edge contact with another truss. .

Further, at column 4, lines 24 - 28, although Gautraud et al. suggested the components could be secured by "any suitable means", he did not state that any of the connections were shear connections nor did he state that any of the connections were made with the wood members in edge- to- edge relation. Moreover, none of the drawings show how any of the components are connected. Applicant's attorney does not see any wood members in the

drawings that are placed in edge-to-edge relation in a shear connection such as those shown by Applicant in Figures 7 - 13. Finally, Gautraud mentioned nails and perforated securing plates, but did not specifically mention screws.

Gautraud was concerned with supporting a bowling alley surface. It is quite reasonable that Gautraud would have no need for Applicant's invention since he was dealing with relatively light loads and had no need to place his trusses in side by side relationship. Applicant, however, is concerned with supporting very heavy loads and must join trusses in side by side relationship in such a secure manner that the plurality of trusses act as a unit.

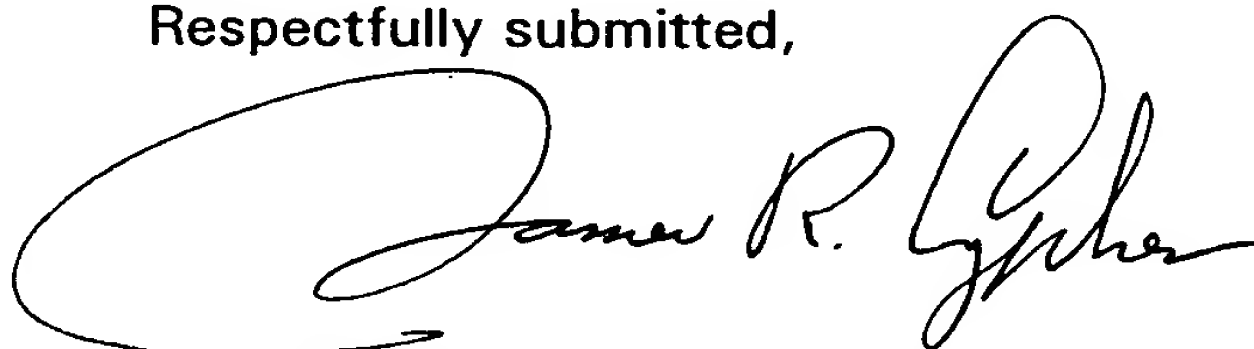
In summary Gautraud provides no structure or suggestion for using multiple edge-to-edge joined trusses for withstanding heavy loads.

In summary Applicants assert that because of the filing of the terminal disclaimer attached and for the reasons set forth above, that claims 4 - 24 should be allowed.

In view of the above, it is submitted that pending claims 1 - 25 are in condition for allowance.

The undersigned would be pleased to answer any questions about this response that Examiner Basil S. Katcheves may have by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: June 20, 2002

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